Nestled along the shores of Biscayne Bay, on the historic Old Cutler Road in the Village of Palmetto Bay, Thalatta Estate is an historic gem that retains all the charm and sophistication of South Florida’s aristocracy of the previous century. Today, this vintage mansion continues to serve a prominent role in the community as a unique park outdoor wedding and event venue that also serves as a natural conservation area. Your guests will take pause as they arrive through a grand coral-rock walled entrance to witness a stunning two-story Mediterranean estate and a majestic banyan tree flanked by a quaint Carriage House. Inside the 1920’s Main House awaits a beautiful fireplace, original Cuban tile floors, and stunning lounging quarters offering spectacular views of the sprawling Estate grounds, with the backdrop of Key Biscayne to the east. The charming two-story Carriage House has been modernized with separate men’s and women’s restrooms and a well-appointed prep kitchen for catering. Further enhancing the perfect setting for your special day are a covered terrace, green lawn, water-side promenade, ceremony site, spacious outdoor dining terrace, reflection pool, and lush tropical landscaping.

Please review this valuable information to assist you in planning your next event. Nothing makes a special event flow more smoothly than working with the Village’s professional park staff of the Estate. The event professional vendors showcased in this booklet provide their talent and commitment to excellence, and join us in our stewardship to protect and preserve our venue.

Thalatta Estate is the ideal location to celebrate your most memorable occasion, or to simply enjoy a leisurely and picturesque visit with family and friends for an afternoon along the shoreline. Rental of this venue is available on a limited basis. Its timeless elegance awaits you... We warmly invite you to visit us and thank you for your interest in Thalatta Estate.

Village of Palmetto Bay
Thalatta Estate
17301 Old Cutler Road
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
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305-234-6383

Funding for the acquisition of Thalatta Estate was provided by State of Florida, Florida Communities Trust/Florida Forever Grant Program, which affords opportunities for communities to protect important natural resources, preserve waterfront properties and create visible recreational amenities.
Thalatta Estate began as a beautiful two-story vintage residence built by the Alan Ford Connett family, who resided here between 1923 and 1945. It is one of only a few homes to grace the shores of Biscayne Bay constructed in the early 19th Century. Mr. Connett’s wife, Virginia Neill Connett, was an avid naturalist and published poet. Their daughter, Rose Connett Richards, was a painter, published writer, researcher, and historian. Initially, the Carriage House served as an automobile garage and workshop. However, it was later converted into apartments where Alan and Virginia lived, while Rose and another sibling remained in the Main House with their nanny. The Connett’s resided at Thalatta for approximately 20 years, before selling the home in 1945 to George C. and Pasqualina Pedersen.

The Pedersen’s owned Thalatta for more than 30 years, where they raised their four children (Marietta, Martine, George Christopher, and Johanna). Mr. Pedersen owned farms in South Carolina, Maryland, and Florida, growing primarily potatoes and tomatoes, until his passing in 1969. Several changes were made to the Estate during the Pedersen’s ownership. A carport was built in 1954, and one of the area’s first private residential pools was installed just footsteps from the southeast corner of the estate in 1955. The C-100 Canal was constructed along the north side of the property in 1960, which, while disrupting the fresh water supply to the property, was deemed essential to the management of flood waters in the surrounding communities of South Dade. Upon Ms. Pedersen’s death in 1976, Thalatta was sold as a part of her estate.

Charles C. Hermanowski, a former Americable executive, owned the Thalatta Estate from 1976 to 2003. Mr. Hermanowski, a fine art collector, constructed an addition to the rear of the home in 1979, along with a small building west of the pool, both of which have since been removed. Thalatta suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and following subsequent storms in 2000 and 2005—most notably to the roof and windows. Interior materials have since been replaced, and impact windows have been installed in the Main House.

The Village of Palmetto Bay acquired the property in January 2005, with the assistance of a State of Florida grant program. Immediate improvements to the property included a structural fortification and rebuilding of the Carriage House, solar panel, and landscaping. In 2010, the Village embarked upon major improvements to the Carriage House including installation of ADA-compliant restrooms, a modern prep catering kitchen, offices, a covered terrace, outdoor terrace, walking paths, reflection pool, watercolor classroom and Petite Restaurant. Most notably, the property’s main entrance was relocated from the southern end of the coral rock wall to its center. This opened the main facade, offering a dramatic view of the large banyan tree in front of the main house. Lush landscaping was planted throughout the grounds of the entire property. In March of 2013, a major refurbishment of the Main House included electric and plumbing upgrades, removal of crown molding, and installation of interior restrooms, exterior French-doors, an elevator lift and a redesign of the second floor to accommodate an educational meeting room. The final touch was the installation of a picturesque rear balcony and lighted grand stairway to the outdoor terrace.

Today, Thalatta Estate takes its place among South Florida’s best naturally exquisite and scenic venues — a must-see for all.
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